

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 EA-06 NSC-05
NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 NEA-07 EB-03 PRS-01
DODE-00 PM-03 L-01 ACDA-10 DHA-02 /078 W
-----130244Z 084312 /66

R 122010Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3489

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

USLIAISON OFFICE PEKING

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ABIDJAN 4911

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS ALL OTHER AFRICAN POSTS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: HORN AND INDIAN OCEAN DISCUSSION AT AF COM CONFERENCE

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1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING MESSAGE GIVES HIGH POINTS OF PANEL
DISCUSSION ON HORN AND INDIAN OCEAN AT AF COM CONFERENCE,
ABIDJAN. END SUMMARY.

2. REPRESENTATIVES AFRICAN ADDRESSEE POSTS AT COM MEETING
ADDRESSED QUESTION HOW TO TURN LOSING POSITION IN ETHIOPIA

INTO REGIONAL GAIN FOR USG. IN GENERAL, ANSWER WAS FELT TO LIE IN OUR SUPPORT FOR AREA MODERATES, NOTABLY KENYA AND SUDAN, PLUS RECOGNITION SPECIAL SECURITY IMPORTANCE WHICH HORN AREA HAS FOR ARAB MODERATES SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. CONCLUSION WAS THAT SUDANESE/KENYA VAST POTENTIAL FOR AGRI-BUSINESS AND CATTLE DEVELOPMENT WHICH REPRESENT FIELDS IN WHICH USG HAS PARAMOUNT CAPABILITIES THUS PROVIDES EXCELLENT AREAS FOR CONSOLIDATING BILATERAL COOPERATION. AS FOR ATTITUDE ARAB MODERATES, THEIR VIEW NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF VASTLY GREATER FINANCIAL RESOURCES THEY CAN BRING TO BEAR IN AREA, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF NEED MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH SAUDIES AS SOURCE EVER INCREASING QUANTITIES USG PETROLEUM IMPORTS. BRIEF COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES FOLLOW.

3. ERITREA: FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF BEST COURSE FOR USG TO TAKE VIEW LIKELIHOOD DE FACTO ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE IN COURSE NEXT ONE-TWO YEARS, IT WAS FELT BY MAJORITY THAT BEST COURSE SHOULD BE POLICY OF PUBLIC SILENCE WITHOUT INDICATING SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE (NOT CONCURRED IN BY CHARGE ETHIOPIA). IT WAS RECOGNIZED THIS POSITION MIGHT GIVE US PROBLEMS IN ETHIOPIA BUT CURRENT STATE USG/EPMG RELATIONS WERE GENERALLY SEEN AS REQUIRING THAT FUTURE USG POLICY TOWARD HORN NOT RPT NOT BE CONSIDERED PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF USG/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONSHIP.

4. TFAI: DESPITE POTENTIAL FOR CONFRONTATION, GROUP CONCLUDED
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NEITHER SOMALIS NOR ETHIOPIANS LIKELY ATTACK AN INDEPENDENT TFAI. SYMBIOTIC COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN HINTERLAND AND DJIBOUTI PORT WAS NOTED. FRENCH TROOPS EXPECTED REMAIN BUT ONLY IF NO SERIOUS INTERNAL DISTURBANCES OCCUR. FIRST YEAR'S INDEPENDENCE MAY BE DIFFICULT BUT THEREAFTER FLEDGELING STATE LIKELY HAVE EASIER TIME.

5. OGADEN: CONTRARY FOREGOING, CONCLUSION WAS THERE EVERY LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASING ETHIOPIAN/SOMALI TENSION OVER OGADEN. WHILE NO MAJOR SOMALI INVASION CAN BE MOUNTED WITHOUT SOVIET SUPPORT, SOMALI GUERRILLA ACTIVITY MAY WELL BE STEPPED UP. EPMG ON ITS SIDE IS LIKELY DEVOTE SOME OF ITS INCREASING MILITARY RESOURCES TO THIS AREA.

6. KENYA/SOMALI DISPUTE: SOMALI CLAIMS KENYA TERRITORY UNLIKELY BE PRESSED, WHILE UGANDA, WHICH ALSO THINKS IT HAS CLAIMS TO WESTERN KENYA, UNLIKELY MOVE IN ABSENCE SOME SOMALI COOPERATION.

7. INDIAN OCEAN: LITTLE PROGRESS SEEMS LIKELY IN DEMILITARIZING INDIAN OCEAN BUT PANEL CONCLUDED WE SHOULD CONTINUE PUBLICLY STRESS DESIRABILITY MUTUAL MILITARY RESTRAINT SINCE THIS POSITION STRIKES RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG LITTORAL STATES.

8. SOVIET INTENTIONS: RECOGNIZING LACK OF CURRENT SOVIET EXPERTISE ON PANEL, GROUP CONCLUDED THAT SIGNS IN AREA SUGGEST USSR NOT RPT NOT PROCEEDING ON BASIS LONG-RANGE PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR HORN, BUT RATHER TAKING AD HOC ACTIONS IN RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP OR EXPAND Footholds. SOVIETS CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED CONTINUE SEEK MINIMIZE CHINESE INFLUENCE IN REGION AND PROVIDE IDEOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARY REGIMES. SINCE LATTER (E.G. SOMALIA) BASICALLY NATIONALISTIC RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICALLY
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ORIENTED, SOVIETS SEEM LIKELY BE DISAPPOINTED IN ACHIEVING THEIR MAXIMUM OBJECTIVES.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL OTHER AFRICAN POSTS.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ABIDJAN 4911

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9. CHINESE POLICY: CONSIDERABLE PARALLELISM IN USG
AND CHINESE OBJECTIVES WAS NOTED, BUT IT WAS CONCLUDED
THERE NEITHER NEED NOR POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING
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USEFUL COORDINATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING
ON HORN ISSUES.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS: CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS CREATED NO PROBLEM FOR USG POLICY
IN AREA SO FAR, EXCEPT ETHIOPIA WHERE IT HAS PROBABLY
BEEN PERIPHERAL IN DETERMINING ETHIOPIAN GOV'S ANTI-
USG STANCE. SHOULD CRITICISM OTHER REGIMES BECOME
NECESSARY, HOPE WAS VOICED THIS MIGHT INITIALLY BE
MADE MANIFEST THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO MINI-
MIZE ADVERSE REACTION ON PART OFFENDING GOVERNMENTS.

11. ARMS TRANSFERS: WHILE IN GENERAL SEEKING
ENCOURAGE MAXIMUM WESTERN EUROPEAN ROLE IN ARMS
TRANSFERS TO HORN AREA, USG SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE
LIMITED SALES PROVIDED THESE DO NOT INCREASE OFFENSIVE
CAPABILITIES RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. IN CASES WHERE
FUNDS REQUIRED MIGHT BE PROVIDED BY SAUDI ARABIA,
USG SHOULD WEIGH NEGATIVE RESPONSE CAREFULLY LEST
THIS IMPACT ADVERSELY ON OUR RELATIONS WITH RIYADH.

12. AID MATTERS: THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT
EFFORTS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN STREAMLINE AID/W PRO-
CEDURES FOR PROGRAM AND PROJECT APPROVALS. GOVERNOR
GILLIGAN'S COMMENTS TO PLENARY IN THIS REGARD WERE
WELCOMED. AS TO STAFFING, IT WAS FELT INCREASES IN

SUBSTANTIVE FIELD STAFFS WOULD ALSO ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION AID PROJECTS BUT THAT NON-SUBSTANTIVE PERSONNEL (E.G. AUDITORS, INSPECTORS) SHOULD, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BE STATIONED IN WASHINGTON.

13. PERCEIVED SECURITY PROBLEMS: CONCLUSION WAS THERE NO RPT NO POSSIBILITY AREA REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. RED SEA SECURITY ISSUE WAS REGARDED AS SYNTHETIC AND ONE WHICH USG SHOULD NOT SUPPORT EVEN SHOULD IT EVER BE BROUGHT FORWARD MORE ACTIVELY.

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14. OAU FUTURE: THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AFRICA BECOMING MORE POLARIZED SO THAT OAU IS PROGRESSIVELY LESS LIKELY BE HELPFUL IN CRISES. IF PARTIES INVOLVED WILLING SOLVE AN ISSUE, OAU ROLE UNNECESSARY; IF PARTIES ARE NOT OAU HAS PROVED UNWILLING GET INVOLVED. CONTINUED CONTACT WITH OAU SECRETARIAT IN ADDIS WAS, HOWEVER, REGARDED AS USEFUL SINCE SECRETARIAT EXERCISES GREATER INFLUENCE THAN ITIULAR HEADS OAU SERVING ANNUALLY.
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Message Attributes

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